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Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2715

May 26, 1995

PROTECTING UNINSURED CROPS -- Farmers who plant uninsured crops can rest easier. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), part of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform legislation enacted by Congress last year. Under NAP, crops that currently are uninsurable will now have protection for weather-related losses. NAP protection is similar to that provided under catastrophic crop insurance. To be eligible for protection, farmers must report their acreage to local Consolidated Farm Service Agency offices shortly after planting. **Contact: Eric Edgington (202) 254-8440.**

FOOD STAMP REFORMS FIGHT FRAUD -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman presented guidelines to reform the food stamp program as part of the 1995 farm bill package. The anti-food stamp fraud plan is a three pronged approach. The first part calls for pre-authorization screening controls tightening retailer requirements to keep illegitimate stores from becoming certified. Secondly, enhanced monitoring methods would be in place to control post-authorization fraud. The third prong would involve stiffening penalties for retailers and recipients who violate the public trust. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

SUSTAINING RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS KEY -- Stimulating investment in rural America is a cornerstone of the farm bill proposals presented to Congress by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. He says, "The greatest needs are for new and innovative sources of capital and credit to boost economic development and help revitalize rural America. Current public policies provide neither enough tools nor the right mix of tools to get the job done." To solve the problem, an interagency working group to make specific recommendations for legislative changes is in place. The Rural Performance Partnership Initiative proposal would move funding for 14 different rural development programs into three broad categories. This should help the people who need it most, said Glickman, and it should direct a high proportion of assistance toward communities that are economically distressed. Recommendations from the working group are expected within 45 days. **Contact: Jim Brownlee (202) 720-2091.**

EXCUSE ME, COULD I SEE YOUR ID? -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture wants to change the way cattle and bison are identified in programs to control and eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis in the U.S. By moving branding from the jaw to the hip, cattle and bison would still be identifiable to aid in disease control and eradication without causing undue distress to these animals. USDA currently requires cattle exposed to tuberculosis or brucellosis be identified with a hot-iron letter brand on the jaw or high on the hip near the tailhead. Hot-iron letter branding is also allowed on the jaw for cattle or bison immunized against brucellosis. To comment on the new identification methods which would move branding from the jaw to the hip, send your comments before June 16 to USDA's APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. **Contact: Kendra Pratt (301) 734-6573.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LAND -- The "Dust Bowl" of 60 years ago prompted the Department of Agriculture to take an active role in natural resource conservation. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman thanked farmers, ranchers and USDA employees who helped make it possible to change the dust bowl into fertile fields. At a national "Celebration of the Land," Glickman spoke about the conservation priorities of the 1995 farm bill. Those are implementing common sense approaches to conservation by letting local and state officials make more of the decisions, by using a comprehensive approach to conservation through watershed plans and by increased community involvement in the conservation effort. **Contact: Carol Hollingsworth (202) 720-5798.**

ONE MILLION HOURS LATER -- Through the USDA AmeriCorps projects, nearly 1 million hours of service were performed by 1200 AmeriCorps members. Serving in 38 states, the members who put in the million hours also have recruited unpaid volunteers to donate almost 30,000 hours of their time. AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program, engages 20,000 Americans of different backgrounds to perform service meeting critical community needs in return for awards that can be used for college, job training or to pay back student loans. **Contact: Joel Berg (202) 720-6350.**

MORE FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON MEAT INSPECTION -- There's more time for people to comment on the Department of Agriculture's proposal for meat and poultry plants to implement changes to reduce contamination. A science-based Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system would require meat and poultry plants to adopt wide-ranging changes to reduce contamination causing foodborne illnesses. Consumers have until July 5 to comment on the HACCP proposal. Send those comments to: USDA's Diane Moore, FSIS, Room 4352-S, Washington, D.C. 20250. **Contact: Jacque Knight (202) 720-9113.**

SHOULD THEY BE ALLOWED IN? -- Some prohibited fruits and vegetables could be allowed into the United States if a new USDA proposal is approved. The forbidden fruits and vegetables include papaya from Belize, cantaloupe from Brazil, pears from China, lettuce from Israel, grapes from India, and apricots, nectarines, peaches and plums from Zimbabwe. Ecuadorian and El Salvadorian basil, chives and dill from Israel are also on the list. The fruits and vegetables would only be allowed entry after meeting the requirements to prevent the introduction of fruit flies and other pests into the U.S. Additionally, some of the fruits and vegetables would have to undergo treatment for pests that pose a danger to American agriculture. Send comments to Regulatory and Analysis Division of USDA's APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. **Contact: Ed Curlett (301) 734-3256.**

IT'S FAST AND IT'S FREE -- You can now receive widely used USDA statistical and economic reports through electronic mail. Subscribers to USDA's crop, livestock and economic reports can now receive them within hours of the scheduled release time. This addition to USDA's existing Internet service is another step toward making USDA information available at minimal cost. **Contact: Jim Horsfield (202) 219-0698.**

FOR FASTER RADIO SERVICE -- You can call the radio personnel directly if you need to get in touch for feed or news information. Here are their direct numbers: Gary Crawford (202) 720-7068; Brenda Curtis (202) 720-7079; Lori Spiczka Holm (202) 720-8688.

Edited by: Lori Spiczka Holm

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1982 -- The "Dust Bowl" of 60 years ago is remembered in this edition of Agriculture USA. Those who contributed most to turning the dust into fertile fields are paid tribute. **(Weekly 5:00 documentary feature).**

CONSUMER TIME #1458 -- Large scale composting makes money for a city. More money, more jobs, more product is the way to revitalize rural America. Helping low income senior citizens who want to find work. Stopping water pollution at home. Nutrition proposals for the 1995 farm bill. **(Weekly consumer features).**

AGRITAPE FEATURES #1970 -- Remembering the "Dust Bowl." New approach improves virus. Feed grains and the farm bill. Protecting uninsurable crops. Wet weather has farmers asking, "Is it 1993 all over again?" **(Weekly agriculture features).**

UPCOMING ON USDA'S RADIO NEWSLINE -- Tuesday, June 6, weekly weather and crops. Friday, June 9, world supply and demand for cotton. Monday, June 12, world markets and trade for cotton. Tuesday, June 13, world agricultural production; feed update; oil crops outlook; rice outlook; wheat outlook; grain markets and trade; weekly weather and crops; world oilseeds markets and trade. Friday, June 16, cattle on feed. **These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or (202) 720-8359
COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545
Material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES -- Patrick O'Leary reports on 60 years of protecting farmland through conservation programs.

ACTUALITIES -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman testifies before Congress on nutrition proposals for the 1995 farm bill. Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, Dr. Karl Stauber talks about research proposals for the 1995 farm bill. Ken Ackerman, Consolidated Farm Service Agency, talks about protecting noninsurable crops.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- Lynn Wyvill reports on protecting uninsurable crops and the sign-up for the Wetlands Reserve Program.

SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:

Thursday, 3:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, Telstar 302, C-band, Channel 6 (Transponder 3H), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3820 MHz. Monday, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET, Galaxy 4, Channel 12 (C-band), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3940 MHz.

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services. Call Larry A. Quinn at (202)720-6072 or 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 202050-1300.

OFF MIKE

ROLLING RADIO STUDIO...is the way **Bill Ray** (Agrinet Farm Radio Network, Elizabeth City, NC) describes his new satellite truck for originating radio remote broadcasts. This is the second one in their fleet and is fondly referred to as "Bushwhacker" because the truck's side mirrors seem to be always beating the bushes. Bill's been a farm broadcaster for more than 25 years, and he's a station owner, too. His radio network reaches from southern New Jersey through Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. Also, he provides a special newsfeed for Pennsylvania.

WASHINGTON VISITOR...last week to our USDA Radio Center was **Skip Davis** (WASK/WKOA, Lafayette, IN). He was here to cover a conference presented by the Conservation Technology Information Center and the special 60th Anniversary celebration of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service). Skip mentioned that he appreciates our special Comrex capability on our daily newslines which enhances overall audio quality. Corn is in the three-leaf stage on some farms in his area with soybean planting underway. Farmers there are increasingly using satellite technology to increase precision in their farming efforts.

SADNESS...fills the halls of **Voice of Southwest Agriculture (VSA) Network** (San Angelo, TX) because of the death of **Rene Stewart** from an auto accident May 12. Rene, 25, was a magna cum laude graduate of Texas A&M who joined VSA two years ago first as an intern before joining their staff full time. She was selected earlier as a participant in the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program which had met in Washington just a few days before the accident. **Curt Lancaster** of VSA says this is a "great personal and professional loss."

NEW LOCATION...but with the same station is reported by **Ron Powers** (WOWO, Ft. Wayne, IN). His station has moved to more of a "country" location from downtown. Ron and his wife Sandy were honored here a few weeks ago by the American Sheep Industry. Ron received the Shepherd's Voice Broadcast Award and Sandy, who is Executive Director of the Indiana Sheep Breeders Association, received an award for best state publication.

Larry A. Quinn

LARRY A. QUINN, Director

Video, Teleconference and Radio Center



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